

## REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. In the December 1, 2004 Office Action, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "the Office") indicated that Claims 8-10 and 15 are allowed. The Office further indicated that Claims 4 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon respective rejected claims 1 and 12, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the respective rejected claims.

The Office further rejected Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, 12, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of previously cited references Windows Multitasking by Jeff Prosise ("Prosise"), and Running Windows 3.1 by Craig Stinson ("Stinson"), as well as a newly cited reference to a document entitled "Lecture Notes Non-Preemptive Scheduling," dated September 25, 2000 ("Notes"). Although the Notes reference is dated in 2000, the Office asserts that the technologies that it describes related to the Windows 3.1 and DOS operating systems were available in 1992.

The applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowed subject matter with regard to Claims 8-10 and 15, and allowable subject matter with regard to Claims 4 and 13. Without admitting to the propriety of the rejections, the rejected Claims 1-3, 5-7, 11, 12, and 14 have been canceled. In addition, Claims 4 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner, to include all of the limitations of the base rejected claims.

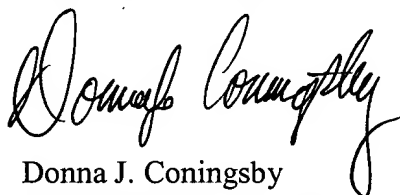
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### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Passing of the application to issue at an early date are solicited. If the Examiner has any remaining questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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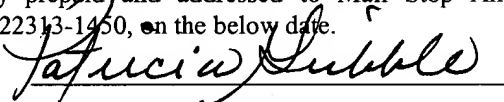


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